

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 00046 110913Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DRC-01 /082 W

----- 058524

R 110700Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 223

INFO AMCONSUL ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS PESHAWAR 0046

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PINT

SUB: NWFP GOVERNMENT FORCES CLOSURE NAP NEWSPAPER FOR 30 DAYS

NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE GOVERNMENT PASSED ORDER SEPT 8
AIMED AT PREVENTING NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY'S NEWSPAPER SHAHBAZ
FROM PUBLISHING FOR 30 DAYS.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, WHICH FOLLOWS CLOSELY UPON
RECENT BANNING OF THREE NEWSPAPERS BY GOVERNMENT OF SIND,
DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY BAN PAPER BUT CALLS FOR 30-DAY SEALING OF
SHAHEEN PRESS, THE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT WHICH PUBLISHES SHAHBAZ.
WHILE NEWSPAPER NOT MENTIONED BY NAME IN ORDER AND NOT THEREFORE
TECHNICALLY PROHIBITED FROM PUBLISHING, SHAHBAZ MANAGEMENT HAS THUS
FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOR PRINTING
ELSEWHERE. SEVERAL OTHER NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, WHICH HAVE BEEN
PUBLISHED BY SHAHEEN PRESS HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY FINDING OTHER
PRINTERS WILLING TO ASSIST IN THEIR PUBLICATION.

CONSULATE UNDERSTANDS THAT LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS RELATED TO NAP'S
OWNERSHIP OF SHAHBAZ MAY HAVE PREVENTED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FROM
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ORDERING ANOUTRIGHT BAN ON NEWSPAPER AND FORCED IT TO UTILIZE

LESS DIRECT METHOD IN HALTING PUBLICATION OF PROVINCE'S LEADING
OPPOSITION DAILY. GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AGAINST SHAHEEN PRESS TAKEN
UNDER WEST PAKISTAN PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE 1962, AS AMENDED
IN 1967.

COMMENT: SHAHBAZ FORCED HALT PUBLICATION ON SIXTEENTH DAY OF
UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT'S CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN AND TWO
DAYS BEFORE ARRIVAL OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO FOR ONE-DAY VISIT
TO PROVINCE.
EVERTS

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